

FAST FACTS

Incorporating New Buildings into the Title I Targeting Process

The Title I law requires local education agencies with total enrollment of 1,000 students or more and having more than one attendance area, to rank schools based on the percentage of poverty and allocate funds to eligible buildings according to the number of low income students in each building. This process is referred to as targeting.

With the changing demographics in many North Dakota communities, school districts are having to address issues of increasing student enrollment and adding new buildings to better provide services in their K-12 system. These issues can cause alternative impacts for those large districts that participate in the Title I targeting process, which occurs in March/April of each year.

When a large district adds a new building to their K-12 system, the district has options on how it chooses to proceed in regard to potential Title I services at the new building. When a new building is opened, the district has two options for the upcoming targeting process (2015-2016):

- **Projecting Poverty Data:** If the district wants to serve the new building as a Title I building (or even see if the building is eligible for Title I), it will have to use the current school year's poverty data (2014-2015 free/reduced lunch data) to project the new building's poverty data. This would require the district to know by March (2014) which students would be attending the new school so the poverty data could be entered for the new building. Of course, this will also influence the poverty data for all of the other buildings in the district. The new school boundaries (2015-2016) would need to be used for all schools when projecting the poverty data collection for the targeting process. After all of the data is collected and entered into STARS Targeting Report, then the Title I targeting spreadsheet (2015-2016) is generated to see which buildings are eligible to receive Title I services for the upcoming school year. If the new school is eligible for Title I services, they would start as a targeted assistance building; and if they have at least 40% free/reduced lunch, then they could participate in the schoolwide planning year.
- **Historical Data:** The other option the district has is to use the current school year's poverty data (2014-2015) with the district's old school boundaries (2014-2015). In this scenario, the district would essentially not project any poverty data for the new building, leaving them out of eligibility for Title I for the upcoming school year (2015-2016). The district would then wait until it has the school's actual poverty data (2015-2016) to use in the targeting process for upcoming school years to determine if the building is eligible for Title I services (2015-2016).

Districts are free to use either option; however, a decision must be made by March/April in order to complete the Title I targeting process. Once the district has made a decision, this information should be communicated with the Office of Federal Title Programs.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact the Division of Student Support & Innovation at (888) 605-1951.